EPITOMEOFNEWLAWS

Work of the Last Legislative Session Succinctly Reviewed.

NUMBER OF GOOD BILLS WERE PASSED

Laws Designed to Promote the Development of Nebraska.

LIBERAL WITH THE PEOPLE'S MONEY

Appropriations Larger Than Any Previous Eession but One.

CORPORATIONS ESCAPE SCOTT FREE

Analysis of the Work Accomplished by a Legislature that Will Be Remembered for What it Did Not Do, Rather Than for What it Did.

The twenty-fourth session of the Nebraska legislature was supposed to be at work sixtyeight days, and during that time it passed and sent to the governor 130 bills, all save four of which will find a place in the next edition of the statutes. Some of these laws are important, having a direct bearing upon the future development of the state. The proposed constitutional amendments will broaden and strengthen the state constitution and make Nebraska's development more certain. The new irrigation laws, if they accomplish all that their ardent friends hope for, will transform western and northern Ne-

braska into one of the most productive agricultural regions of the country. The sugar and chicory bounty bills will undoubtedly greatly stimulate those important industries and largely increase the wealth of the state. to say nothing of offering lucrative inducements to the farmers of the state to engage more extensively in diversified agriculture. A number of bills calculated to enable the farmers in the drouth stricken counties to procure seed grain will also be considered important as they add greatly to the assurance of a large yield of corn and small grains during the ensuing year.

Of the general laws passed by the legis lature but little need be said. A number of good bilis were adopted. The large majority of the bills, however, simply propose amendments of a trivial character to existing laws. The Ree has prepared and presents below a classified synopsis of the new laws enacted. It will be found convenient for reference. Parties directly interested in any particular bill will, of course, secure complete copies, but the following synopsis will furnish an intelligent idea of the character of the work performed by the members of the twentyfourth session.

The session was liberal with state funds. the appropriations aggregating \$2,792,122.68. The aggregate was, however, swelled by the appropriation of \$250,000 for the relief of the drouth sufferers. Even including this amount, the total appropriations were \$94,452 less than at the extravagant session of 1891. The detailed appropriations are set forth in the following statement:

P MING.	Amour	nτ
Claims	69,833	Ü
Claims	26,722	
District	WY 190 1 1 7 7 75	
	1,375,479	
Milford Soldiers' Home	8,000	
Library shelving	2,000	
Matriculation fees	2,1000	
Tiberray maintenances		
Library catalogue	600	
Maximum rate case	21,648	
University	73,930	
University Relief of Henry Leubs	86	40
Relief of William Weise	57	61
Relief of Dakota county	2,223	
Penitentiary contract	35,000	
Logislative expenses, officers, etc	85,000	
Legislative expenses, incidentals		
Dellas Agaith outterens	40,000	
Procuring seed and feed	50,000	
Procuring seed and feed	200,000	0
Total	89.709.199	63

Aside from the appropriation of \$250,000 for the relief of the drouth sufferers the legisla-ture enacted a number of laws calculated to assist the farmers in seeding their fields for ensuing season. One of these measures au-thorizes the county boards of the several counties to use the surplus general, read and bridge funds in purchasing seed grain for farmers who are unable to supply themselves from their own resources. Another bill au-thorizes county commissioners to use the surplus of precinct bond funds for the purpes of buying grain for seed and feed. Still another authorizes the counties to invest the idle moneys in the sinking funds for seed grain. Another provides a special form of a seed grain note, thus facilitating the pur chase of seed by farmers who do not wish to accept aid from the county or state.

The twelve proposed constitutional amend ments are already familiar to the people These amendments if adopted by a majority of the electors voting at the genera etion in 1896 will very ma'erially streng her the present constitution of the state. relieve the present constitution of its rigidity and render it clastic enough to meet the requirements of the state for a quarter of a cen-A brief epitome of these amendments fellows:

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS. Section 6 of article 1 provides that the right

of trial by jury shall remain inviolate, but the legislature may provide that in civil actions five-sixths of the jury may render the verdict, and the legislature may also authorize trial by a jury of a less number than twelve in courts inferior to the district court.
Section 1 of article v is amended so as to

provide for the election of three railroad Section 24 of article v provides that th

legislature, three-fifth of the members elected to each house concurring, shall fix the salaries of the executive officers of the state Section 26 of the same article gives the legislature authority to create new state officers three-fourths vote of the members elected to both houses.

Section 1 of article vi gives the legislatur authority to establish courts inferior to the supreme courts but superior to the district Section 2 of article vi provides that the su

preme court shall consist of five judges, and section 3 of the same article fixes their term of office at five years. Section 13 of the same article empowers the legislature, by a three-fifth vote, to fix the compensation of judges of the supreme court, while section Il gives the legislature authority to increase number of judges not oftener than once

Section 6 of article vil authorizes the use of voting machines at elections, providing that the secrecy of the ballot be maintained. Section 9 of article vill authorizes the in-vestment of the permanent school fund in the United States or state securities, registered ecunty or registered school district bonds of this state, and confers upon the Board of Educational Lands and Funds authority to sell from time to time any of the securities belonging to the permanent school fund and the proceeds at a higher rate

interest whenever an opportunity for better investment offers.

An entirely new section is added to article xii, the new section providing that the gov-ernment of any city of the metropolitan class and the government of the county which it is located may be merged wholly or in part when a proposition so to do has been submitted by authority of law to the voters of such city and county and received the assent of a majority of the votes cast in

such city, and also a majority of all the votes cast in the county exclusive of those cast in such metropolitan city at such elec-The above amendment, as will be readily recognized, is one of great importance to the city of Omaha and to Douglas county, as its

denations to any works of internal improve-ment, or manufactory, unless a proposition so to do shall have been first submitted to the qualified electors and ratified by a two-levy a torest of the bonds. The irrigating canals or ditches, when constructed or purchased, are to be managed by the commissioners of the assessed valuation of said county; provided further, that any city or county may, by a three-tourths vote, increase such indebtedness 5 per cent, in addition. uch 10 per cent, and no bonds or evidences f indebtedness so issued shall be valid unless the same shall have endorsed thereon a showing that the same is issued pursuant to

ertificate signed by the secretary of state. The above amendment enables either town ships or counties to vote bonds in aid of manufacturing industries. The present constitutional provisions relating to the subject do not clearly indicate that manufactories are works of internal improvements. The limita-tion of the constitution has retarded the new. industrial growth of the state to a large extent, and the proposed amendment, if

adopted, will certainly stimulate them It is to be regretted that the legislature did not agree to submit the proposed amendment giving to cities of the metropolitan class the power to make their own charters. NEW IRRIGATION LAWS.

The irrigation people seemed to get all they asked for at the hands of the legisla-Two bills drawn by men working under the authority of a committee appointed by the last irrigation convention were luced and passed. Both were drawn by Senator Akers and introduced by him in the senate and by Representative Meyers of Brown county in the house.

One of the bills is general in its provisions nd provides for the appropriation, distribuion and use of water for irrigating purposes, for the exemption of such works from taxation, for the appointment of a state board of irrigation, for the appropriation of the streams of the state and for controlling the distribution of water from such streams, for the adjudication of the rights of those using

ne water, etc.
The state is by the new law divided into two water divisions. Water division No. 1 state drained by the Platte rivers and their tributaries lying west of the mouth of the Loup river, and also all other lands lying outh of the Platte and South Platte rivers hat may be watered from other superficial r subterranean streams not tributary to said

Water division No. 2 consists of all the rrigable lands that may be watered from the onp. White, Niobrara and Elkhorn rivers and their tributaries, and all other irrigable lands not included in water division No. 1. The law creates a State Board of Irrigation, be composed of the governor, attorney general and commissioner of public lands and

nildings, the governor being ex-officio president of the board. At its first meeting the board shall appoint secretary, who shall be a hydraulic engi-er of theoretical knowledge and practical skill and experience. The secretary shall reeive a salary of \$2,000 per annum. There hall also be an assistant secretary, also a practical engineer, at a salary not to exceed

There shall also be an under secretary for ach of the two water divisions, who shall ee that the laws relative to the distributian of water are executed in accordance with the lights of priority of appropriation. The under secretaries shall receive \$5 per day for he time actually employed, but shall not re-

elve more than \$600 in any one year.

The secretary of the state board shall as oon as practicable measure or cause to be measured the quantity of water flowing in the several streams of the state.

The state board shall at its first meeting make proper arrangements for beginning the letermination of the priorities of right t the public waters of the state, which deternination shall begin on streams most used for irrigation, and be continued as rapidly as practicable until all the claims for appropriation now on record shall have been ad-

Within thirty days it is the duty of the bounty clerk of each of the counties of the state to prepare a full and complete transcript of all the claims to appropriations of water now on file in their respective offices and transmit the same without delay to the and transmit the same without delay to the following purposes only: Such as is necessary for convenient transaction of business, sary for convenient transaction of business, mit the original record of claims to water instead of a transcript

Every person, association or corporation ereafter intending to appropriate any of the public waters of the state shall before commencing operations make an application to the State Board of Irrigation, setting forth the source from which said appropriation shall be made, the amount, as near as may be, the location of the proposed work, the time required for its completion, and if for erigation a description of the land to be irrigated and the amount. Upon receipt of he application the state board shall give it lue examination, and if the water has not already been appropriated and the applica ion not otherwise detrimental to public welfare, it shall be granted.

A cubic foot of water per second shall be he legal standard of measurement, both for the purpose of determining the flow of water the natural streams and for the purpose of distribution; provided, that water heretoore sold by the miner's inch shall continuto be sold in that way." Fifty miners' inches inder a four-inch pressure shall be deemed equivalent to a cubic fost per second.

All persons, companies or associations defrous of constructing ditches, dams or reservoirs for the purpose of storing water for irrigation or water power purposes shall be entitled to condemn the right of way over or through the lands of others.

The water of every natural stream not heretofore appropriated within the state of Nebraska is declared to be the property of the public, and is dedicated to the use of ne people of the state subject to appropriations as heretofore provided. Whenever any ditch or canal has been con-

structed for the purpose of conveying or selling water for irrigating purposes it shall be unlawful to change the line of said ditch or canal so as to interfere with the use of water by any one who prior to the proposed change had used water for irrigating purposes from said ditch, and it is made the duty of the owners of all canals to keep the same in good repair and to cause the water to flow through such ditch or canal to the extent of its capacity during the period between April 15 and November 1 each year. For failure to cause the water so to flow the owners of the canal are made personally liable to any one for damages resulting

from such failure. Any corporation or association organized under the laws of this state for the purpose of operating or constructing canals for irrigation and water power purposes shall have the power to borrow money and to mortgage their property and franchise in the same manner and for the same purpose as railroad

corporations. Canals and other works constructed irrigation or water power purposes, or both, are declared to be works of internal improvements.

Nothing in the act shall be construed as interfere with or impair the water appropriated and acquired prior to the passing of this act.

Any person, company or corporation de-sirous of constructing and maintaining a reservoir for the purpose of storing water for irrigation purposes shall have the right to take water from the natural streams of the state when not needed for immediate use for irrigation or domestic purposes. All ditches, canals, laterals or other works used for irrigation purposes shall be exempt

from taxation, whether state, county or mu The second irrigation bill to become law with the adjournment of the last legis-lature is known as the district irrigation law, and does not in any way conflict the general irrigation law already outlined;

but, in fact, is supplementary to that law, and both are evidently needed to throw all needed legal safeguards around the development of the irrigation systems of the state.

The law authorizes the creation of irrigating districts, to be composed of a part of a county, all of a county, or of two or more counties. These irrigating disthes are simply larger subdivisions of the state government and have very much the same powers. ernment and have very much the same powers and privileges that are now given to school districts. Each district, when formed, adoption will aid in the accomplishment of a sunder the control of three commissioners, and has a treasurer and an assessor. These officers are elected by a vote of the people

Another, and the tast of the amendments living in the district. The commissioners submitted to the people, is calculated to are empowered to issue bonds, when author-greatly stimulate the manufacturing indus-tries of the state. It provides that no city, district, for the purpose of constructing and county, town, precinct, municipality, or other inbdivision of the state, shall ever make jonations to any works of internal improveassessor is required to assess the property of the district, and the commissioners to thirds vote at an election by authority of law; provided, that such donations of a county, with the donations of such subdivisions in the aggregation about the purpose of paying the principal and interest of the bonds. The irrigating canals long in the aggregation about the subdivisions and the commissioners to levy a tax based upon that assessment, for the purpose of paying the principal and in-

The most elaborate law passed by the legislature was probably the new banking act The new law was proposed in the house by Sutton of Douglas and in the senate by Wright of Lancaster. While it was enacted into law with little discussion in either house, it is one of the most comprehensive laws sent to the governor for his approval. now on the statute books, repeals entirely the banking act of 1889, under which so much progress has been made in the regulation of banks, and contains many provisions entirely Its importance will justify an ex-

tended synopsis of its provisions.

A state banking board is created, consisting of the auditor of public accounts, state treasurer and attorney general. The board is authorized to appoint a secretary and to keep

All new banks established must first fitwith the banking board a statement showing, first, the name of the proposed bank; ing first, the name of the proposed bank; second, incorporated a certified copy of its articles of incorporation; third, the names of the in-corporators, partners, firms or individuals; fourth, the county, city, town or village in which the proposed bank is located; fifth, the nature of the proposed banking business whether commercial or savings; sixth, the amount of paid up capital stock. If the statement is satisfactory the board will issue a charter authorizing it to commence business. In addition to this provision, every bank now doing business in Nebraska must within sixty days file with the board a full and detailed report of its condition, and to receive a charter before continuing business. All banks in the state must make four re-

as under the old law. A slighte hange is made in the compensation allowed the state bank examiners. The old law provided that each bank should pay for one examination per year, the cost to be not less than \$10 nor more than \$20. The new law provides that the fee for an examination shall be \$15 for all banks with a capital stock of \$15,000 or less; \$20 for all banks with a capital stock of more than \$15,-000 and less than \$50,000; for all banks hav-ing more than \$50,000 and less than \$150,000. the fee will be \$25; and for banks having a capital of more than \$150,000 the fee will be \$30. The examiners are to receive \$2,000 parties. In fact, the trustees are vested per year and all necessary traveling ex- with the entire management of the canal penses, to be paid out of the fees, and each examiner is required to give a bond for \$50,-

orts to the board every year instead of three,

00, to be approved by the governor. Another small change is made in the old provision requiring a reserve of 15 per cent of the aggregate deposits. The new law provides that at least two-fifths of the 15 per cent reserve shall be cash in the vaults. In cities having a population of 25,000 or more the reserve shall be 20 per cent of the aggregate amount of deposits. The available funds shall consist of cash on hand and balances due from solvent banks.

One of the new provisions is to the followholder of any such shares, unless such security or purchase shall be necessary to pre-vent loss upon a debt previously contracted or private sale within six months. In default thereof a receiver may be appointed to the post of the p to close up the business of the bank. Provided, that in no case shall the amount of stock so held exceed 10 per cent of the paid up capital of said bank

up capital of said bank.

Another new provision requires all banks
before declaring a dividend to carry enetenth of its net prefits to the surplus fund
until the same shall amount to 20 per cent of its paid up capital stock.

The new provision in regard to real estate

holdings is also both explicit and important, it is as follows: "Any corporation transacting a banking business in this state may purable banking business in the banking business in th not exceeding in value one-third of the paid up capital; such as bhall be conveyed to it for debts due the bank, and such as it shall purchase at sale under judgment or decree upon its securities, but the bank at such sale shall not bid a larger amount than to satisfy its debt." Real estate thus acquired may be held no longer than three years, when it must be sold at public or private

unle. Another important provision defines the powers of the examiners in certain cases. When an examiner has taken possession of a bank which has become insolvent, he is given power and authority to hold retain possession of all the rights, credits, assets and ty of every description belonging to money,

such bank as against any mesne or final process issued by any court until the State Banking Board can receive and act upon the report made by the examiner and have a rever appointed. No partnership, firm or individual trans

acting a banking business in this state is permitted to carry any note or obligation of such partnership, firm or individual as any part of the assets of the bank. Every stockholder in any banking corp ation shall be liable to the creditors of the bank for an amount equal to the par value of the stock so held. Stringent provisions are made to prevent the transfer of the stock of

an insolvent bank, and the original holder is liable to the full amount, even if he has transferred his stock after he is aware that he bank is insolvent. Receivers for insolvent banks are to be appointed by judges of the district courts instead of by the suprems court, and all pending cases relating to insolvent banks now

under control of the supreme court are trans-ferred to the district courts. Another law signed by the governor wa-incorporated in a bill introduced first in the house by Hinds of Gage county. It provides

as follows: The president and cashier, or the busines manager, of every institution transacting a banking business shall cause to be kept at all times a full and correct list of the and residences of all the shareholders in the association, the number of shares held by each and the amount of paid up capital represented by the shares held by each mem Such list shall be subject to the inspec tion of all shareholders and creditors of the association during the business hours of each day on which business may be legally transacted. Such list shall be kept in the office of the association where its business is trans-acted and where all shareholders and credi-

tors of the association may have ready ac

AFFECTING OLEOMARGARINE.

The two bills affecting the manufacture and sale of eleomargarine were the occasion of one of the most hotly contested battles of the session. The legislature early in its de liberations passed senate file No. 78, intro duced by Senator Sloan of Fillmore county The same bill had been introduced in the by Representative Burch of nouse by Representative Burch of Gage county, but as the senate file was passed first it was substituted in the house for Burch's bill. The law was drafted by a committee appointed at the last meeting of the State Dairymen's association, and was as drastic in its provisions as it could possibly be made. It practically prohibited the manufacture of oleomargarine or other form of immitation butter, and because of this fact it aimed a blow at one of Nebraska's fact it aimed a blow at one of Nebraska's prominent industries. It was this fact that brought on the hotly contested battle, which continued during the entire latter half of the

The law as it has been signed by the ernor contains the following essential pro

The manufacturers of imitation butter are not permitted to color it for the purpose of imparting to it a yellow shade so that it will resemble genuine butter. They are no allowed to use butter or cream in the manu allowed to use butter or cream in the manufacture of imitation butter, but must make the immitation butter entirely out of animal fats or vegetable oils, or a combination between the two. Every package containing imitation butter must be plainly marked to that offset. All railroads and common carthat effect. All railroads and common carriers are prohibited from transporting imi-tation butter unless it is shipped as such.

imitation butter are required to post conspicuously at each table a sign bearing the words "imitation butter used here." Heavy penalties are provides for the violation of a board of health of three members, one of whom shall be a physician. The board shall be a physician.

under protest, but recommended to the legis-nances and shall have jurisdiction to enforce lature an amendment which would permit the same within three miles of the village the manufacturers of okomargarine or imi-tation butter to color their product in imitation of creamery butter, providing that all laws enacted by the last legislature muni-oleomargarine so colored should be sold only cipal authorities of cities of the first class in other states. The legislature finally having less than 25,000 inhabitants and cities adopted the governor's recommendations after a struggle. By the passage of the governor's ordinances imposing a special tax on insurbill the manufacturers of eleomargarhe at South Omaha are not compelled to close down their works, as they undoubtedly would have tax cannot exceed \$5 per annum.

Cities of the second class owning their own compelled to do had the exception in their favor not been made. OMAHA'S CANAL BILL.

The so-called "Omaha canal bill" had a comparatively easy time of it during the legislative session. It became a law without the anticipated opposition from the friends of irrigation, who were at first inclined to believe that the proposed canal, should it ever be built, might interfere with the water supply in many dirches in the northern part of the state. The bill was introduced by Senator Bressler of Wayne county, and makes every provision for the county ownership of for irrigation, navigation, canals power and other purposes, including the geneerating of electric and other power and transmitting the same for light, heat, power and other purposes. Under the law any county in the state is authorized to issue bonds not to exceed 10 per cent of the as sessed valuation of the county for the purpose of constructing a canal for irrigation water, power or other purposes. In order to submit a proposition to the people, a petition signed by at least 500 legal voters must first be presented to the county commissioners If the issue of bonds is authorized it is then made the duty of the commissioners to at once notify the district judges, whereupon the judges shall appoint a board of five trustees, one of whom shall be an experienced civil engineer. One of the trustees shall be appointed for one year, one for two years, one for three years, one for four years and one for five years from the 1st day of July immediately following their appointment. At the expiration of the term of any one of the trustees the judges shall appoint or reappoint a member of the board. This board of canal trustees is to have en-

tire control over the construction of the canal and its management after it is completed. It is authorized to make preliminary surveys, acquire right of way and other lands necessary for its purpose, construct the canal, dispose of the water power, electric, pneumatic, hydraulic or other power generated by such water power, operate a line of boats or grant the right to other enterprise, subject to the restrictions of the act.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The general law governing cities of the first class having more than 8,000 and less than 25,000 population has been altered and amended in many particulars, although few radical changes are made. In regard to the the new law provides that all claims against the city must be presented in writing with the full amount of the items verified by the oath of the claimant or his agent. The important change in this section (No. 38), is that while the old law provides that action own capital stock, nor be the purchaser or within six months from the date the alleged time to twenty days. It is also provided in the new law that all claimants for injuries to the person shall be subjected at any time to a personal examination by the city physician and such other physician as the city physi cian may indicate, or by either of such physi cian may indicate, or by either of such physi-cians, for the purpose of determining the character and extent of the injury. Failure to submit to such examination prohibits the maintenance of any action against the city or damages. Section 40 of the old law is materially modified with regard to the pro-risions for the equalization of assessments Subdivision 15 of section 68 is amended so as to permit municipal ownership of gas or elec-tric light works and to authorize an Issue of onds not to exceed \$50,000 for the purpos f constructing such works. Subdivision 21 issue bonds in any amount not to exceed \$75. grounds for public parks.

ropolitan cities is the ne law governing the fire and police systems under the control of the Board of Fire and Police commissioners. The old law provided for a board of five commissioners with the mayor, ex officio, one of the number, and the other four to be appointed by the gov ernoz. The new law reduced the number of commissioners to three and vests their ap-pointment in the hands of a state board con-sisting of the governor, commissioner of pub-lic lands and buildings and attorney general. The mayor is deprived of his membership The new law provides for the appointment of an entirely new commission, but as the emer

gency clause was not added to the law will not go into effect until August 1 Another new bill relating to metropoliti cities and cities of the first class, provider for a pension for members of paid fire departments after a continuous service of wenty-one years, and for the widows an orphans of firemen who lose their lives while in the line of duty, and a pension to members of paid fire departments who shall be come totally disabled while in the line of their duty. After twenty-one years of con inuous service the fireman shall be entitled to a pension of 20 per cent of the salary he received at the time he was retired The same rate applies to widows and or phans of firemen killed while on duty and o firemen who are totally disabled while

performing their duties. Subdivision 14 of section 2,892 of th Consolidated Statutes is amended so as to

read as fellows: To make contracts with and authorize any person, company or association to erect and maintain gas or electric light works in said city, and give such person, company or asso-ciation the exclusive privilege of furnishing gas or electric lights to light the streets and alleys of said city for any length of ime not exceeding twenty-one years, and evy a tax not exceeding 5 mills on the dollar in any one year for the purpose of paying the costs of lighting the streets, lanes and alleys of said city.

The new portion of the law simply adds electric lights to he section. By act of the legislature all the proclama-lons, acts, doings and proceedings of the governor and all proceedings of the several cities which have heretofore been declared and have been proclaimed cities of the firs class, under chapter 8 of the laws of 1891 approved April 9, 1891, are legalized and rendered of full force and effect. The law was made necessary for the reason that the supreme court last November had declar the original law passed in 1891 technically unconstitutional. The defects of the law were remedied by the recent legislature, and the proceedings under the old law legalized.

Cities of the second class having a population of 1,000 to 5,000 are affected by an amendment to subdivision 2 of section 2,858 f the Consolidated Statutes, which adds to the section as it at present exists a provision empowering such cities to create and establish a board of health; to consist of th nayor, who shall be chairman, the city physi cian, who shall be accretary, the president of the city council and marshal of the city. A majority of the board shall constitute a quorum to enact ordinances for the enforce-ment of all rules, regulations and orders of the board and to provide fines and punish-ment for the violation thereof.

A law passed for the benefit of Otoe county declares that in counties having more than 25,000 inhabitants all jame so constructed that the floors of the cells are below the surface of the ground are to be condemned as nulsances, and in such case the county shall at once proceed to the erection of a new jail. The law was passed in order to authorze Otoe county to construct a new jail. No other county in the state is affected by the

Hereafter in cities and villages whose cororate limits form in whole or in part than one school district, all moneys derived from fines and penalties and licenses shall be apportioned to these school districts in proportion to the number of children of school age residing in each district included i whole or in part in said corporate limits according to the school census taken last before such apportionment.

In cities of the first class having less than 25,000 ishabitants, in cities of the second class and in villages, the authorities are empowered by a new law to pay to volunteer firemen injured while in the line of their No one is allowed to sell imitation butter duty a sum of not more than \$10 per week the same was declared unconstitutional and ciation shall issue a certificate of membership session of the legislature.

unless the purchaser is informed as to the true character of what he is buying. All of such disability, provided that no one firehotels, restaurants, hearding houses using man shall receive more than \$200 for each have been made by any court is the state

be act.
Governor Holcomb signed the above bill enforce quarantine laws and health ordi-

Under the provisions of one of the new

water works are empowered to issue bonds not to exceed 5 per cent of the assessed valuation of such cities for the purpose of extending, enlarging or improving such system of water works.

CRIMINAL CODE.

The druggists will be interested in a new statutory provision which recites that it shall be unlawful for any persons, firms, corporations or associations to engage in the keep ing of what is commonly called a drug store within this state, where medicines are com pounded and prescriptions filled, first obtaining a certificate as a pharmacist as now required by law. An exception is made in the cases of regular physicians. A violation of the new law will render the per

on liable to a fine of \$200.

One of the bills so urgently demanded by he cattle interests of the state provides that any person shall steal any cow, bull or calf or buy any such animal that has been tolen, knowing the same to have been stolen, with intent by such buying or receiving defraud the owner, or if any person shall conceal any cattle thief or any cow, bull or calf, knowing the same to have been stolen, every such person shall upon conviction be imprisoned in the penitentiary not less than e or more than ten years, Section 53 of chapter viii of the criminal code has been amended so as to make the

enalty for daylight burglary equal to that mposed for burglary committed in the night ime. In both cases the penalty is imprisnment in the penitentiary for not more than five years nor less than one year, or a fine not exceeding \$500 and imprisonment unty jail not exceeding six months, at the iscretion of the court. The age of consent bill raises the age of onsent in females to 18 years, and any person

aving carnal knowledge of a female under s years of age is deemed guilty of rape, uness it shall have been established that such person is notoriously unchaste and over 15 years of age. Under the provisions of the anti-cigarette

bill it is made unlawful for any person to sell or give away to any person under the age of 21 years, any cigarette. One of the new laws makes it a misda canor for any person not entitled to do so to wear the badge known as the fireman's national button, which has been adopted by the firemen of the United States, or to use the button to obtain aid or assistance within The infraction of the law may be he state. punished by imprisonment for thirty days or by a fine of not more than \$20.

NEW SCHOOL LAWS. The school law has been further extended y the enactment of a new law providing for free attendance at public High schools. new law authorizes the state superintendent of public instruction to designate annually a number of High schools to be known as public High schools. These High schools designated shall be open to the free attendance of all persons of school age, whether they reside in the district where such school is situated or not. Such pupil must have a certificate from the county superintendent of his county to the effect that he has completed the common school course.

Under the provision of a new section added the school laws children living more than a mile and a half from the school house n their district and at least a balf mile nearer a school house in another district, may attend school in the nearest district instead of their own. In order to pay the expense the county clerk is required to list the property of the parent or guardian in the school district attended by the child instead of the district in which he lives. Section 3,513 of the Consolidated Statutes,

relating to the school law, has been amended by the addition of the following provision o the seventh subdivision: "No district shall be formed extending more than six miles in direction upon section nore than six miles in any one direction upon section lines the county superintendent shall have discretionary power to divide such listrict without petitio

In the future children confined in the poor louses of the state are to be educated at th expense of the county in which they are confined. The county board is required school district wherein the poorhouse is lo cated, or with some district adjoining, for the children in the poor house to attend school, receive text books and instructions, the expense to be paid out of the gen-

eral fund of the county.

Foreign corporations organized under th laws of other states are permitted to maintain institutions of learning in this state of the grade of a college or university, to issue diplomas and to confer degrees, under the provisions of a new law added to the statutes by the last legislature.

ELECTION LAWS MODIFIED

Many bills were introduced during the session to modify the election laws, but only one of importance succeeded in running the gauntlet. The most important bill affecting the election laws was the one introduced by Cross of Jefferson. It does away with the confusion occasioned by the designation on the official ballots of candidates as "republican by petition" or "democrat by petition" as the case may be. The new law provider that when a candidate goes on the ballot by petition his name shall be printed in its proper place and shall be followed only by the words "by petition," and shall not be followed by any party designation by virtue of such nomination.

The registration laws for cities of the metropolitan, first and second class has been amended so as to provide that supervisors of registration shall be appointed for each ward instead of for each voting precinct. The law as amended is found in section 2. chapter lxxvi of the Compiled Statutes. the section insert the word "ward" wherever the words "election precinct" occurs. Otherwise there is no change in the law. Section 1 of chapter ixxvi of the Comp tatutes has been amended so as to provide for registration of voters only in cities of the metropolitan class, of the first class and of the second class having a population of 7,000 or more. The present law requires registration of voters in all cities having population of 2,500 or more.

COUNTY OFFICES. Clerk of the district court must in the future keep an incumbrance book as o the records of his office, in which book the sheriff shall enter a statement of the levy of each attachment or execution on real es-tate. No levy of attachment or execution shall be notice to a subsequent vendee or incumbrancer in good faith unless the sheriff shall have entered in the incumbrance book a statement showing that the land, describing it, has been so attached or levied upon the cause in which it was attached and when it was done. Such book shall be open, as other books kept by the clerk, to public in-Under a law introduced in the senate by

Crane of Douglas and passed by both branches of the legislature the county boards in all counties having more than 70,000 inhabitants may employ additional counsel to assist the county attorney in civil matters in which such counties are interested either as plaintiff or defendant. Such attorneys so employed shall receive such compensation as the county boards may agree upon. In counties having over 125,000 inhabitants each bailiff of the district court shall be appointed to serve one year from the time the court, and shall receive for his salary \$900 per annum, to be paid monthly by the

county. DECEDENTS' ESTATES.

An important enactment of the last legis lature was one to correct the illegal features of chapter 23, section cixxvi, of the Com-piled Statutes. The supreme court has pronounced the section unconstitutional and void, whereupon, at the instance of Senator Sloan of Fillmore county, the legislature passed the following:

Whereas, Numerous estates have been

all judgments, decrees and findings that have been made by any court is the state of Nebraska under and by virtue of the provisions of the said act, pertaining to estate of any deceased person, be and same is hereby legalized and made valid to the same extent and to the same purpose as hough said act had not been adjudged uncon-

stitutional by the supreme court. Section 1,390 of Cobbey's Consolidated Statutes, referring to decedent's estates, has en amended so as to read as follows:

Section 1,300. The county judge may, upon a proper showing by petition, supported by competent testimony, showing that the best interests of the estate demand it, grant authority to the executors or administrators of estates and guardians of the estates of minors, insane persons, feeble minded and spendthrifts, to morigage any real estate belonging to such estates where mortgages ex-isting on such real estate are due, or about to become due, and there is no money be-longing to such estate with which to pay or redeem such mortgage; provided, that in no instance shall authority be granted by such county judge to such executors, admin-istrators or guardians to mortgage such real estate for a greater sum than the amount secured by the original mortgage,

FOR ATTORNEYS ONLY.

The Nebraska attorneys of the future must apply for admission to the bar to the su-preme court instead of to the district courts The last legislature passed a law, embodied in a bill introduced by Watson of Otce county equiring all candidates for admission to the bar to be examined either by the supreme court or by a commission appointed by the supreme court. The supreme court is to fix regular stated times when examinations shall ake place, and prescribe and publish rules to govern such examinations. No person shall be admitted to practice unless having first regularly and attentively studied law in a practicing attorney for the eriod of two years, and shall pass factory examination in the principles of comnon law, or is a graduate of the college iaw of the Nebraska State university, is 21 years of age and shown to the court to be a person of good moral character

CIVIL CODE MODIFIED. Section 311 of the code of civil procedure a amended by the addition of the following proviso: "Provided, that any person or offi-cer, or the presiding officer of any board or tribunal before whom any proceeding may be had, shall, on request of any party thereto, settle, sign and allow a bill of exceptions of all the evidence offered or given on the hear-

ing of such proceeding."

Sections 490, 510 and 1,067 of the code civil procedure have been amended so as to provide, in addition to the present require nents of the law, that all goods and chattels sold under execution must first be appraised by two residents of the township, precinct of ward where said goods are seized. changes in the existing law are made OF INTEREST TO DENTISTS.

An entirely new law regulating the practice of dentistry in Nebraska will go into effect this year. It is very similar to the law already upon the statute books regulating the practice of medicine, and its enforcement is entrusted to the State Board of Three secretaries are to be appointed from a list recommended by the State Denta society. It is the duty of all persons engaged in the practice of dentistry in Nebraska and desiring to continue the same to make appli cation to the secretaries for a certificat cation to the secretaries for a certificate within six months. In order to be entitled to a certificate the person applying for the same must present a diploma issued from a reputable dental cellege or must stand an examination as to his or her knowledge of the science of dentistry. Nothing in the act shall be so construed as to prevent phys cians or surgeons from extracting teeth, and bona fide students of dentistry are permitted to perform operations under the immediate ervision of their superior. All graduates from dental colleges receiving a certificat must pay a fee of \$2. All dentists who have to stand an examination before receiving their certificates must pay a fee of \$10.

PROBATE COURTS.

The irregularities occasioned by the present defective provisions relating to the record of the probate courts are corrected in a bill introduced in the senate by Crane of Douglas. The law amended is found in section 1,106 of the Consolidated Statutes, or in section 32, chapter xx, of Wheeler's Compiler Statutes. The new law reads as follows: "The probate books shall consist of a probate record and fee book, which shall be kept as follows: and codicils, and the probate thereof, all letters testamentary of administration and guardianship and all bonds and oaths executors, guardians and administrators; all inventories, appraisements, sale bills and other exhibits and reports received by the court relative to the settlement or disposition of estates, showing the amount of all estates as shown by such instruments, together with a full record of all orders, judgments and proceedings of said court, with the dates of each paper filed or entry made; and a full record of all determinations of the district or supreme court upon appeal or petition in error, from an order or judgment of court. Evidence shall not be recorded. original papers shall be filed and preserved ! the court. 2. The fee book shall contain an entry of all probate proceedings and the date each paper is issued or filed, and the date of all orders and judgments entered therein together with an exact account of all fe-allowed and paid in each proceeding, show ing the names of the persons receiving the Provided, that all records heretofore mad under the authority of this section, an which have been made in any one of th books heretofore provided for by tion, but not in the proper book, shall be a legal and valid, and shall have the legal and valid and shall have the same force and effect as if made in the prop-

book."

LITTLE AGAINST RAILROADS. The railroads escaped scott free from any legislation affecting their interests adversely The one principal bill passed into law reall favors the railroads. It repeals entirel sections 104 f, 104 g, 104 h, 104 i, 104 j, 104 of chapter xvi of the Compiled Statutes, a sections 566 to 571, inclusive, of the Conso idated statutes, and substitutes an entirel new law. The old law required all railroads doing business in Nebraska to equip their cars and engines with automatic couplers on or before January 1, 1895. The railroads did not comply with the law and the legisla-ture, under the pretense of making the state law identical with the national law, extended the time until January 1, 1898. The new the time until January 1, 1898. The new law provides that on and after the 1st day of January, 1898, it shall be unlawful for any corportaion, company or person operating any line of railroad in this state, any car manu facturer or transportation company using o leasing cars to put in use in this state ar car or cars that are not equipped with safety or automatic couplers or draw bars, such as shall not necessitate the going between the ends of such cars to couple or uncouple them.

A new law placed on the statute books relates to contracts for the conditional sale, lease or hire of railroad and street railway equipment and rolling stock. It permits rail road companies to purchase rolling stock on time or to lease such rolling stock. Instead of requiring a copy of the contract to be filed with the county clerk of every county through which the road passes the new law makes it sufficient for the contract to be filed with the secretary of state. The law amends sections 1 and 2 of the act approved February 27, 1879, so far as the same relates to contracts of the kind specified in this act and repeals all other acts inconsistent. NEW GAME LAW.

The game laws were further increased by he enactment of a bill for the protection Mongolian pheasants, introduced by Senator Hahn of Adams. The bill is designed to pro-tect these game birds from the rapacity of the sportsman until such time as they can be thoroughly domesticated in the state. law makes it unlawful for any person to take, kill, expose or offer for sale or have in his possession, except for breeding purposes, any ringneck Mongolian pheasant, any green Japanese pheasant, any copper pheasant, or scholmerings, any tragopan pheasant, silver or golden pheasant, being the species im-ported into this country by Hon. O. N. Denny, exq-United States consul general to Shanghal China. The law is to be in full force and

BENEFIT ASSOCIATIONS. A new law under the insurance department

provides for the organization and operation of mutual benefit associations. Such com-panies must file articles of incorporation with the auditor and attorney general for approval. No sgent shall solicit applications for any assessment association until the association settled under and by the provisions of said has received a certificate from the auditor act of the legislature prior to the time that authorizing it to transact business. No asso-extend beyond the close of the next regular

to any person under 15 or over 60 years of age. Reports must be filed with the auditor at the close of each calendar year. Nothing the act is to be construed as to apply to any secret fraternal society nor any associa-tion organized solely for benevolent purposes and composed wholly of members one occupation, guild, profession or religious

TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION.

The new law governing countles under township organization is one of the most impor-tant enacted by the recent legislature. The old law provided that in counties under fownship organization each precinct shall be en-titled to one supervisor. The new law pro-vides that when a county now governed under the commissioner system wishes to change to the supervisor system the matter shall be submitted to a vote of the people living in the county. If the proposition is adopted the commissioners must at once proceed to divide the county into supervisors' districts not to exceed seven in number. In counties already under the supervisor system a special session of the Board of Supervisors must be called within thirty days and the county divided into supervisors' districts. The supervisors now serving shall cast lots among themselves to determine which members of the board shall retire. In other respects the law is unchanged save only in those particulars in which changes are made necessary by the reluction in the number of supervis

Another law relating to the same subject provides that whenever a petition for a submis-sion of the question of the discontinuance of ownship organization signed by not less than 10 per cent of the electors of the county shall be filed in the office of the county clerk not less than thirty days before a general election. it shall be the duty of the county clerk to cause said question to be submitted to the voters at such election.

COUNTY WARRANTS.

Hereafter idle moneys in the hands of county treasurers of the several counties of the state and belonging to the sinking funds are to be invested in registered county warrants, providing that no more than 50 per cent of any one sinking fund shall be so invested at any one time. The investments are to be made under regulations prescribed by the county boards. Another provision of the same law makes it apply to cities and

districts. Two slight amendments have been made sections 1 and 2 of chapter 93 of the com-The old olied statutes, relating to warrants. law refers in these two sections to the war-rants of the state, county or municipal corporations. The new law refers to the warrants of the state, county, city, school dis-trict or other public corporation. The object of the law is to provide for the registration of school district warrants.

MAY BUILD BRIDGES.

Counties bordering upon the Missouri river are authorized, under one of the new laws of the state to vote bonds to aid in the en truction of a highway wagon tell across that river. Whenever it is deemed desirable to assist in the construction of such a bridge any county, township, precinct, city or village bordering on the Missouri river may issue bonds to an amount not to exceed 10 per cent of the assessed valuation. The law was passed especially for the benefit of the proposed wagon bridge across the Missouri to connect South Sloux City, Neb., with Sloux City, Ia., although it is applicable to all counties along the river.

FOR RUSSIAN THISTLES.

An entirely new law on the statute books the one to provide for the destruction of the Russian thistle. The law makes it the duty of every owner, lessee or occupant of any land in the state to cut down and destroy all Russian thistles growing thereon or in the highways adjoining the same, so often as to prevent their going to seed. Each road overmust netify the land occupants in district to cut down the weeds and if the occupant falls to do so in ten days the over-teer must cause it to be done and the excense taxed up to the occupant, the cost to emain a lien upon the land until paid back o the county.

GUARANTEE BONDS. One of the important laws enacted by the ast legislature authorizes state, county, municipal and precinct officers to furnish a guar-antee bond in lieu of the personal bond signed y private parties as is now required by law. law was proposed by Senator McKesson f Lancaster county. Any guarantee or se curity company desiring to engage in the business of furnishing such bonds for state, ounty or municipal officers must have a paidup capital of not less than \$250,000. It nust file with the auditor of public accounts follows: 1. The probate record shall a writing appointing the auditor its true and ain a full record of all wills, testaments lawful attorney upon whom must be served all lawful process against it and authorizing him to acknowledge service in its behalf in any suit arising against it in any court of

the state. MISCELLANEOUS LAWS.

By the passage of two bills, one introduced n the house and the other in the senate, the legislature reduced the interest on state war-rants from 7 per cent to 5 per cent per annum. The bill introduced in the house and signed by the governor contained the emergency clause and has already gone into

Supplies for the legislature in the future must be purchased by the Board of Public Lands and Buildings instead of by the secreary of state as has been the practice for years past. The board is required to advertise for bids sixty days before the legislature convenes and the supplies are to be purchased from the lowest bidder. Under the new laws a legal newspaper for

the publication of official notices must have been published for at least fifty-two conecutive weeks and have a bona fide circula-ion of at least 200 copies. The act does not apply to counties wherein but one newspaper Under the provisions of a new enactment

a uniform system of vouchers must be used for all disbursement of state's funds through the auditing and treasury departments of the The law passed by the legislature two years ago, creating the supreme court com-mission for a term of three years, was re-

enacted, thus extending the life of that com-mission three years longer. A new state institution is provided for by the establishment of a branch soldiers' home at Milford. The home is to be located in the well known Milford sanitarium, which is to be given to the state free of rental for two years. After the expiration of two years the state has the privilege of leasing the build-ings and grounds for eight years longer at an annual rental of \$800. Or the state purchase the buildings and grounds if it so

By the provisions of a new law, number of constitutional amendments are to be submitted to a vote of the people for their approval or rejection, they may all be printed upon one ballot, and the voter, if he so desires, may vote for all or against all of them at once or singly, if he so prefers. The purpose of the law is to facilitate the adop-tion of the new amendments to be submitted at the general election in 1896.
One of the new laws gives to counties in

this state, to submit to a vote of the people, a proposition to vote a special annual tax for the purpose of rasing funds with which to erect new court houses and other county buildings. The tax must not exceed 5 mills on the dollar valuation of the taxable prorty in said county and must not be levied for more than five years.

Section 3821 of the Consolidated Statutes have been slightly amended. Under the present law purchasers of educational lands rom the state may pay for the same at any time during the year, providing that the interest is paid up to the 1st day of January next ensuing. The new law removes the latter restriction and only requires the interest to be paid up to the time of the payment of the principal.

NEW PENITENTIARY LAW.

The new law for the government of the state positestiary, passed on the last night of the session and signed by the governor since the final adjournment of the legislature, is likely to be the source of a great deal of contention. At present the penitentiary is nominally under the control of the Board of Public Lands and Buildings, but it practically managed by a private citizen. Under the law the penitentiary has always been leased and the state has paid the lessee 40 cents per day for the board and maintenance of each convict. The original lease was given to W. H. B. Stout and by him transferred to C. W. Mosher. The legislature extended Mosher's case and he in turn transferred it to W. H. Dorgan, the present holder. The new law annuls Dorgan's pretended lease, appropriates \$35,000 with which to purchase Dorgan's property, repeals the law requiring the lease of the penitentiary and requires the Board of Public Lands and Buildings to assume control of the institution and authorizes it to lease